

~~TOP SECRET~~

3.5(c)

 3.5(c)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
30 January 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 12 NOON EST)

Some additional details have been received on the enemy attacks reported in the situation report early this morning. Information is now available on two new attacks against Ninh Hoa and Tuy Hoa cities in coastal II Corps.

In addition, the press has reported Khe Sanh airstrip closed due to enemy artillery bombardment. There is no confirmation of this as yet from US military sources. Otherwise, the situation along the DMZ appears quiet.

Da Nang Area

1. Enemy forces launched coordinated mortar, rocket and ground attacks in the Da Nang area on 30 January. Targets within the urban area included the airbase, a strategic highway bridge, and the Vietnamese and US Army military headquarters. At about the same time as the attack on the city, the enemy hit several other installations in the area, including the "Marble Mountain" air facility, a US Marine regiment northwest of the city, and Vietnamese forces guarding the strategic Hai Van Pass.

2. Almost simultaneous enemy mortar barrages were directed into at least five aircraft landing zones throughout the area of Operation WHEELER/WALLOWA--astride the Quang Nam/Quang Tin borders--and in the area surrounding Chu Lai. Approximately 15 miles south of Da Nang, the Quang Nam provincial capital of Hoi An was apparently attacked by an enemy force which had first launched a diversionary attack on a Vietnamese artillery base.

3. Reports presently indicate that the situation is quiet in the Chu Lai and WHEELER/WALLOWA area. Allied forces in Da Nang appear to have repulsed enemy incursions and are conducting a house to house mopping up operation. The situation in Hoi An, however, is less clear. Press reports indicate

~~TOP SECRET~~

3.5(c)

~~TOP SECRET~~

3.5(c)

that allied forces in and around Hoi An have not yet forced the enemy to abandon positions he seized.

Qui Nhon

4. An estimated Viet Cong sapper company has penetrated the provincial capital of Binh Dinh Province and is presently controlling the radio station facilities and a nearby allied maintenance complex.

 Preliminary casualty reports show Communist losses of 50 killed and US losses of three killed and five wounded.

3.3(h)(2)

Nha Trang

5. Sporadic fighting continues in the provincial capital of Khanh Hoa with allied reaction forces presently attempting to cut off enemy units exfiltrating from the city. The Communists, estimated to range from two sapper companies to a full battalion, have thus far sustained losses of 60 killed and 15 captured. Allied casualties to date stand at 21 killed and 66 wounded.

Pleiku City

6. Heavy fighting apparently continues in the Pleiku provincial capital, with ARVN reaction forces attempting to block enemy routes of escape from the area. Battle results to date include 103 Communists killed, as against allied losses of 7 killed and 22 wounded. The enemy force is estimated to total at least two companies.

Kontum City

7. The Kontum provincial capital is now reported under secure allied control, with artillery and tactical air strikes being employed against an estimated two Communist battalions on the outskirts of the city. At least 165 enemy troops have been reported killed thus far, in contrast to allied losses of seven killed and five wounded.

Ban Me Thuot

8. Fighting continues within the Darlac provincial capital, with an estimated two Communist battalions apparently poised to strike on the outskirts of the city. An enemy captive has stated that the 33rd NVA Regiment planned to infiltrate and take Ban Me Thuot. Enemy losses thus far include 91 killed and 28 captured, as against allied casualties of seven killed and 16 wounded.

-2-

~~TOP SECRET~~

3.5(c)

~~TOP SECRET~~

3.5(c)

Ninh Hoa

9. Sporadic fighting continues in this important district town in coastal Khanh Hoa Province. Eleven Viet Cong have been killed to date.

Tuy Hoa

10. Heavy fighting has broken out in the provincial capital of Phy Yen. Allied reaction forces, attempting to intercept enemy units leaving the city, have thus far killed 36 of the attackers, while sustaining friendly losses of seven killed and 31 wounded.

Tan Canh

11. Sporadic contact continues between elements of an ARVN regiment and an enemy force of unknown size. No results are available.

-3-

~~TOP SECRET~~

3.5(c)